

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the present application and at issue.

It is respectfully submitted that the present reply presents no new issues or new matter and places this case in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is requested.

I. The Rejection of Claims 1-11 and 14-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-11 and 14-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over McGoff et al. (U.S. Application Publication No. 2003/0073604). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Applicants respectfully submit herewith a Declaration pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.131 showing that McGoff et al is not prior art to the present invention.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

II. The Rejection of Claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103 as being unpatentable over Pieroni et al. (WO 99/37746). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

The present invention relates to stabilization of granules comprising an active compound, for example an enzyme, by the addition of a synthetic polymer and an antioxidant or reducing agent. See, for example, specification at page 1, lines 8-10. Specifically, Applicants have found that the combination of a synthetic polymer, for example PVP, and antioxidants or reducing agents, for example sodium thiosulfate, provide stabilization of the active compound in hostile environments when mixed in a matrix in specified amounts, resulting in significantly improved stability of the active compounds in the granules. See, for example, specification at page 2, lines 7-11. Specifically, the amount of antioxidant or reducing agent used in the matrix of the present invention is particularly 0.2 to 5% by weight, more particularly 0.5 to 4% by weight, even more particularly 1 to 3% by weight, most particularly 1 to 2% by weight of the matrix. No significant stabilization effect is seen when the amount of antioxidants or reducing agents used is less than 0.2% by weight of the core matrix and adding antioxidants or reducing agents above 5% may have a negative effect. See specification at page 8, lines 11-14.

Although Pieroni et al. disclose that adjuncts can also be included in the compositions of the detergent tablets claimed therein, Pieroni et al. merely disclose that adjuncts can be added in

amounts comprising "from about 30% to about 99.9%, preferably from about 70% to about 95%, by weight of the compositions." *Id* at page 77, lines 27-28 (emphasis added). The broad range of "about 30% to about 99.9%" disclosed in Pieroni et al is much higher than the 0.2-5% range the present invention teaches and nothing in Pieroni et al suggests to one skilled in the art to use the substantially smaller and narrower range for anti-oxidants or reducing agents claimed in the present invention to enhance the stabilization of granules comprising an active compound. Thus, Pieroni et al. neither disclose nor suggest the importance of including anti-oxidants in an amount between 0.2 to 5% by weight of the matrix for the stabilization of granules comprising an active compound, for example an enzyme.


For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the claims overcome this rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

III. Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

Respectfully submitted,

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